

Abstract

This thesis' topic is The United States' influence on Northern Ireland conflict resolution. The Northern Ireland conflict has its roots in the 17th century, when protestants from Scotland and England started to come to the Ulster region. Religion differences between the inhabitants, most of the original population were Catholics, led over the centuries to the division of two ethnics on the Ulster territory – protestant and catholic. After the partition of the island in 1921 the southern part declared independence, however the Northern Ireland territory remained a part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The conflict between ethnics sharpened itself, because most of the Catholics wanted to united the island under Irish rule (the republicans), while protestants wanted to remained in the union with the Great Britain (the unionists and the loyalists). At the end of the 1960's the conflict turned itself into a violent one and the attacks and killing continued for the next thirty years during the period called „the Troubles.“ The conflict was settled by the end of the 1990's with a contribution of the governments of the Republic of Ireland, the Great Britain and the US.

The description part of this thesis narrates the conflict in Northern Ireland, its roots and attempted resolutions. Special emphasis is placed on the role of the US in the negotiations since the outbreak of “the Troubles” until the signing of the Good Friday agreement, i.e. between 1969 and 1998. The author rates the role of two particular actors in the negotiations – president Clinton and former senator George Mitchell, in the practical part of this essay. The theoretical part interprets the theory of consociational democracy by Arend Lijphart, describes its shift in relation to the role of an external actor in the development of consociational democracy and applies this theory to the Good Friday agreement.